GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2795
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
PROBLEMS OF SOYABEAN GROWERS
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems of Soyabean growers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide minimum support price and other incentives to the soyabean farmers of Rajasthan and other States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION {SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The major problems being faced by the soyabean growers in the country are low productivity on account of its large scale cultivation under rainfed conditions, nonavailability of good quality seeds, problem of poor germination and longevity of seed, infestation of insect pests, diseases and weeds etc.

(c) In order to provide remunerative price to the Soyabean growers, Government of India has been announcing Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for soyabean in the country including Rajasthan. The Minimum Support Price of soyabean has been increased from Rs.930/- per quintal in 2003-04 to Rs.1000/- per quintal in 2004-05 for yellow soyabean and Rs.840/- per quintal in 2003-04 to Rs. 900/- per quintal in 2004-05 for black soyabean. National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) as Central Nodal Agency undertakes procurement of soyabean if market prices fall below MSP. Further, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored `Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize` (ISOPOM) in 14 major oil seeds growing States including Rajasthan with a view to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds including soyabean in the country. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria, distribution of gypsum/ pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets and water carrying pipes, publicity, etc. to encourage farmers to grow oilseeds. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are being organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.